

Docket No. 82,197

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph on the first page of the specification, following the title paragraph:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/168,184, filed on December 1, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 7 that starts with "Primers were designed to have  $T_m$  ...", with the following amended paragraph that removes certain typographical and grammatical errors as well as the website noted by the Examiner:

Primers were designed to have  $T_m$  of  $60^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  using several methods, including the "primer express" and "net primer" program. Methods used to calculate  $T_m$  vary widely, so it is important to test the melting point empirically. Probes were designed to have a  $T_m$  of  $70^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and design characteristics recommended by Perkin Elmer, Inc., such as %GC content,  $T_m$ , length, etc., were considered and incorporated. Primers and probes were ordered on the smallest scale available so that each set could be evaluated before a large-scale order was placed. Probe and primer design are shown in Table 7.

Please delete, as the Examiner requires, the paragraph beginning at the middle of page 12, line 6 and ending page 12, line 7. This paragraph to be deleted starts with "(I believe most of the journals...." and ends with "Lab. Immunol. first.)".